THE VOICE OF THE PULPIT

LESSONS AND REVELATIONS.

By the Rev. Elmer E. Helms, D. D. Pastor of Central Park Methodist Church, Buffalo, N. Y.

One of the six great electric, scenic productions shown at the Pan-American is a reproduction of the Johnstown flood, so realistic that it is impossible for many the awful tragedy of that awful day, rather

than simply a scenographic production. As the curtain rises and there nestles before you in the lap of the valley Johnstown, the fron queen, nothing can be more beautiful. Mountain slope and deep precipice are robed in darkest green. Surging hemlock and spruce cling to the steep hillsides. Slipping away up the valley are open fields, verdant with grass and grain. Violets here and there purple the forest floor.

strike your ear, and see! tramp, tramp, the and all climes. boys in blue are crossing the bridge on close. The sun is sinking behind the dis- down the fearful gorge, singing. tant hills. The soft hush of evening broods | * Blessed the man that can go that way-

creeps upon you, the candles of the skies are lit and the soft blue light of the moon | flood, the flood-I'm not ready for it:" or shop shine out with "the light in the window." A sea of flame and sparks and lava Cambria iron works. The red glow of the Then, as the lights of the cottages flicker out, the town clock strikes the deep, solemn express from Pittsburg rushes in with ringing bell and screaming whistle. The silence of the third watch rests upon sleeping Johnstown, innocent of the awful to-morrow. One by one the stars die, the blush of dawn o'erspreads the eastern sky, daylight creeps up creek and valley and hillside. COMING OF DISASTER.

Day with its noise and hush and trade reigns once more. But clouds hang low. Thunders mutter ever and anon. Here and there lightning, now growing fiercer, cuts its forked way. Raindrops fall big and threatening. Like a bolt from heaven there comes that never-to-be-forgotten, deadening, sickening thud, and the cry that makes one's heart stand still, "My God, the dam has burst!" The terrible catastrophe is retold so true to nature that hundreds have felt themselves gasping before the awful The crashing homes, the railroad trains and bridges and rocks with thousands of human souls piled into one awful dam against the great bridge. The horror of darkness and leaping flame that licks up hundreds of pleading, praying men and women. All this, too horrible for sight, when like magic out of the darkness and the storm stands the new Johnstown-Johnstown of to-day, greater, grander, "a symbol of American greatness, a witness to American love, an object lesson of American enterprise," while there arches over her God's beautiful rainbow of promise and Order. hope. So much for the great scenic production at the Pan-American. Like the inhabitants of Pompeif, the 30,000

people of Johnstown, used to the threatening mutterings of the South Forks dam-a | described in "Gulliver's Travels." veritable lake over four miles long, fourteen miles up the valley, hundreds of feet above the town, with 16,000,000 tons of waterheeded not the ominous warnings that for days preceded that terrible May 31, 1889. "Because destruction cometh not speedily, saith the Lord, my people forget." The same day of the week and the same hour of the day that our beloved President was struck down by the bullet of an incarnate demon, the pent-up waters flung themselves with insane fury against the already honeycombed breastworks; like fragile gates they | the prison's. parted and with a wild roar, and rush and scream, at the speed of an Empire Express, Factories and great buildings and iron bridges were like children's blocks before it. Engines, trees, railroad trains were snapped and twisted like straw. A hundred thousand tons of rock were hurled before it like marbles. Five thousand people were their pay?-A. W. H. quickly crushed or pinned in the awful mass at the great bridge, where, as the fire slowly consumed them, their shricks and cries drove strong men mad. THE FLOOD'S REVELATION.

The Johnstown flood revealed as never before in the history of the race that humanity has a heart; that all the world is kin. The flood of waters had not yet begun to dry in the streets before the flood of charity poured in. Not a city or town or newspaper failed to do its noblest best. Sixteen foreign countries-poverty-stricken Ireland, ignorant Italy, bloody Turkey, uncivilized Persia, sent hundreds of thousands of dollars. Even asylums and almsand orphanages forwarded their

Most surprising of all, the convicts of the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, from the mere pittance that was possible for them to save by working overtime, sent \$5.43 each-the largest per capita average from any spot on the globe. Ah, there is hope for the race. Humanity has a heart. The Anarchist that struck down the President is not a representative of the American race, nor the human rac The human race has a heart.

While the Johnstown flood was appall ing, yet it is not the only terrible flood in flood that was in 1837, 1857, 1877, 1893-a deluge financial. What floods of domestic infelicity have swept down thousands of homes. What floods of crime and sin and degradation. Floods, floods.

But there have been other great floods of water. In the year 684 the great Japan flood deluged 700 square miles. In 1219 the flood of Norway swallowed 36,000 lives. In 1421 the flood in Holland wiped out of exple. In 1612 300,000 souls were drowned in the great flood of China. But the greatest flood of all time is recorded in our text, when "the fountains of the great deep were broken up and the flood gates of heaven

forty days and forty nights. position of the rocks and the topography | Christian Union and other papers.

Dead, with all the regions round about are | son, N. Y. THE GREAT FLOOD: ITS IMPRESSIVE lower than the sea level-proving to any sane man and mind the existence of a once universal inundation and deluge. The traditions of every race and people-Chaldean, Indian, Persian-bear like testimony. Every great scientist, infidelic and Christian, all now agree to the existence of the Noahatic flood. Prof. Frederic F. Wright has just returned to America after two years of geological study in that region and though he has always taken a scientific position against the biblical story of the Text: "The same day were all the foun- flood, on his return writes: "I have found tains of the great deep broken up, and the floodgates of heaven were opened."-Genof the flood is not only credible, but must | water? Why does the ice float?-Zeno. be geologically true."

THE ARK OF SAFETY. In the terrible Johnstown flood the people that got to the hills were saved. Not so the people in the time of Noah. There were people to believe they are not witnessing no hilltops. All in the valleys, all on the hillsides, all on the mountain tops went

down. There was no difference-those in the valley of sin, those on the hillsides of | floats. morality, those on the mountain tops of good works-all out of the ark were swallowed of the black waters. All in the ark were saved. No doubt many boats were built, but all were dashed to pieces save one. Only one ship was able to outride the

What scores of ships and millions of souls Conemaugh and Stony creeks foam and have gone down with the storm-the storm tumble into one, and then roll on into the of the sea and the storm of sin. There is Ohio, Mississippi and gulf, singing and but one ship that can outride it-the old leaping as they roll. Up and down the val- ship of Zion. A few years ago the steamer leys lie the bustling, busy iron villages-ten Princess Alice, with a crowd of excursionin number. In the lap of this everlasting ists on board, sank in the River Thames. green nestles Johnstown like "a gem in a A boatman put out, and soon his boat was more than full, while hundreds were drown-Day is full when the curtain lifts. Up | ing around him begging for help. "Oh, that | and down West mountain the inclined rail- I had a bigger boat," cried the boatman. way climbs with its human freight. The There is but one boat that is big enough for strains of "America" from fife and drum all-the Ark of God. Room for all colors | ried Dr. L. M. Burnett, in 1875 she settled

A correspondent of a New York paper their way to the cemetery to scatter flow- | tells us that on that indescribable afternoon ers on the graves of their dead. It's Deco- at Johnstown he saw a young woman on Stephen Townsend, an English author. ration day. The busy day draws to a the roof of a house that was being hurled

over all nature. There is a crimson glow | singing. When the last great storm strikes | you, suppose that it should strike you now, The twilight shadows lengthen, night could you go singing? Or would you go crying as that great unbeliever did, "The throws shadows of mountain and bill that other, "The billows, how dark," or across the valley. One by one home and | that other, "The awful waves-they're de-

Cling to the cross; it is the only anchor pour from a hundred fires in the great for thy soul. As Johnstown stands to-day, resurrected, greater, grander, more beauticoke ovens paints all the southern sky. ful than before, so when we go through the flood of death and this mortal puts on immortality, if we can cry in triumph, "O peal of the midnight hour. The midnight grave, where is they victory?" then we shall stand beautified, glorified, in robes of white and realms of light.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

When did Charles III, of Spain, reign' From 1759 to 1788.

What is the population of Greater New York?-G. By last year's census, 3,437,202.

Where is Company F, Twenty-third Infantry?-R. T. W

On the way to New York from Manila. Is black a color?-Greenville. Strictly it is not. As the word is used

commonly it is the darkest of colors. What was the population of Ohio, Massachusetts and Iowa by the last census?-

In your order, 4,157,545, 2,805,346 and 2,231

Will you please inform me who is the United States consul at the City of Mexico? Andrew D. Barlow is our consul general

What does the abbreviation K. C. V. O. mean? I see it used in connection with the name of Sir Thomas Lipton.-G. E. W. Knight Commander of the Victorian

Who were the Struldbruggs, and can you give me the name of the book that treats of them?

They were a certain wretched folk

What are the populations of Oklahoma City and McAlester? 2. Where is Company C. Sixteenth Infantry?-A. O. By last year's census, 10,087 and 646, respectively. 2. In the Philippines; address

What is the new name of what used to be called Sing Sing Prison? E. A. V. The name of the prison is unchanged. The town's name was changed to Ossining, in order to have its name different from

Will you kindly give me the total vote of Occorded to the local vo last presidential campaign?-A Reader. Last Tuesday the total vote was 41,834; at the presidential election last November

If a man has a house built by contract and the contractor gets the amount of the contract and refuses to pay the men, can his men take a lien on the property for Yes; under the law of Indiana such liens are preferred claims.

In white goods, moisten the spots repeatedly with well diluted javelle water, being sure to rinse the fabric thoroughly before long, finally washing in strong warm soap suds. Soak colored goods twenty-four hours in sour milk or buttermilk, rinse and

What is the harvest moon?-Ruled.

The full moon of the lunation coming at about the time of the autumnal equinox. nearly the same hour. This is especially noticeable in arctic regions, and decreases southward, disappearing altogether at the

Will you print a comparison of the sizes of the Great Eastern and the largest ves-83.5, depth 58, gross tonnage 18,915; Celtic, length 680.9, breadth 75, depth 44.1, tonnage

for fair comparison of size. The Oceanic s a longer boat than either of these, being Are the fish of subterranean water, such as those of the Mammoth cave, absolutely

30,880. The latter specification is the one

without eyes? 2. And have they a close relative sort of fish that has eyes?-B. No; eyes exist in a rudimentary form and are hidden beneath the skin. 2. Yes; the "Chologaster," of the swampy regions and to the south of Virginia, and with welldeveloped eyes, is thought to be the type

Please give me some information concerning Amelia Barr.-F. E. J.

from which the others came.

Amelia Edith Barr was born in Lancashire, England, March 29, 1831; was eduwere opened" and seas poured down for cated in Glasgow, Scotland, married Robert Barr in 1850 and came to the United States, You may not believe the Bible story, but settling in Galveston, Tex. There her husthe geological story you will believe. Sea- band and three sens died from yellow fever; shells and marine deposits you find all up with three daughters she removed to New the mountain sides of that region. The York in 1869 and began to write for the prove the existence of a once great deluge. I written thirty novels in all. "A l

The Valgo, Ural, Sihon, Amoo-all the ange Ribbon," "Jan Vedders's Wife" and New York; William C. Endicott, Massarivers of that region flow not out, but in, "Prisoners of Conscience" being among chusetts; William C. Whitney, New York; and lose themselves in the great rainless | those best known. Her address is Cherry | William F. Vilas, Wisconsin; Augustus H. district. The great seas-Caspian, Aral, Croft, Cornwall Heights, Cornwall-on-Hud- Garland, Arkansas; L. Q. C. Lamar, Missis-

Will you give the origin and date of

Halloween?-B. S. It is the night of Oct. 31-the eve of All Saints' or All Hallows' day-yet has nothing churchly about it, and seems to be a pagan relic or perhaps a remnant of mediaeval superstitions. Some writers decide that it is related to the German "Walpurgis Night," a witch festival of the eve of May 1, the date when Halloween used to come in the old days.

Does heat expand or contract wood? 2. Is ice a contracted or expanded form of

Expands it-more across the grain than with the grain, 2. An expanded form, Water contracts slowly with lowering temperature until at about the freezing point it expands suddenly. So ice, contrary to the usual rule, contracts in melting, 1,000 volumes of ice becoming 917 volumes of water. Thus, too, ice is the lighter and

I read that an attempt on the life of Andrew Jackson occurred Jan. 30, 1835; by in alphabetical order. 3. He added the whom and where was the attempt made?- Thompson as a pseudonym.

The assailant was a crazy English house painter named Lawrence. He tried to fire at President Jackson as the latter crossed the rotunda of the Capitol at the head of the funeral procession of a South Carolina congressman. The powder in his pistols failed to explode, and the lunatic was put

Where can I get a sketch of the life of Frances Hodgson Burnett?-Mrs. N. R. Here is a brief one: Frances Eliza Hodgson was born at Manchester, England, Nov. 24, 1849. She moved to Knoxville, Tenn., in 1865. Two years later she began writing for the magazines. In 1873 she marin Washington and in 1877 her first successful novel was brought out. In 1898 she obtained a divorce and last year married

Is there a genealogist in Indianapolis who can assist a person in looking up revolutionary ancestors? If so, who is he? 2 career. Who are the secretaries of the Sons of the Revolution and the Society of Colonial Wars in Indiana?-A. H.

A number of persons in the city are selves and their family connections, but we know of no one who has taken up the work professionally. The secretary of the Sons of the Revolution is William Allen Wood, Indianapolis. There is no Society of Colonial Wars in Indiana.

Is it lawful for United States banks to charge interest on interest? For instance, I borrowed \$400 at 8 per cent., with interest counted in, for six months, which amounts to \$416. When the time came to pay off the amount there was 64 cents added .- Z It is the custom of banks to collect in-

terest in advance. In that case your note would be for \$416, but you would receive only \$400. As you did not pay until the note was due the bank lost the use of the \$16, and therefore charged you interest on it for the six months, which would amount to 64 cents. This is not an illegal proceeding.

Who served in President Cleveland's Cabinet, and especially where were the members from?-W. N.

His first term's Cabinet included Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; Daniel Manning, cake Flour.

sippi. Charles F. Fairchild, of New York, and Don M. Dickerson, of Michigan, entered the Cabinet later. The second term's Cabinet took in Walter Q. Gresham, of Illinois; John G. Carlisle, Kentucky; Daniel S. Lamont, New York; Hilary A. Herbert, Alabama; Wilson S. Bissell, New York; Richard Olney, Massachusetts, followed by Judson Harmon, of Ohio; Hoke Smith, Georgia, and David R. Francis, Missouri,

Will you tell me something about lime? 2. And about Roget's "Thesaurus?" 3. Why is Ernest Seton called Seton-Thomp-

It is the protoxide of calcium and the basis of limestones, marbles, shells and corals, where it is combined with carbonic acid. Heat drives off the acid, leaving the caustic or quicklime of commerce, and the addition of water slakes it. For mortar, in which is the greatest consumption of lime, sand is added. Any encyclopedia will give you more of this topic. 2. It is a work first published in 1852 and a classification , and arrangement of English words and | 6 phrases according to their meanings, not

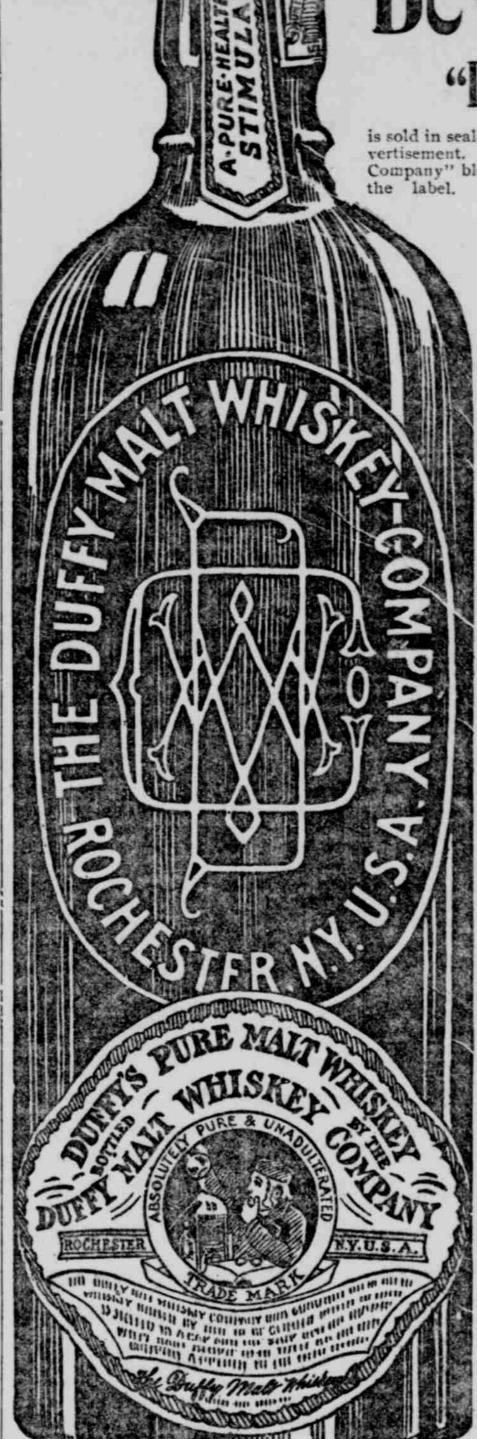
Why and when was New York city called Gotham? 2. What became of Dred Scott

The origin of the name "Gotham," as applied to the city of New York, is contained in a humorous book called "Salmagundi," written by Washington Irving, his brother | William and James K. Paulding, and is used to signify that the inhabitants were given to undue pretensions to wisdom. This definition is taken from a story regarding the inhabitants of Gotham, a parish in Nottinghamshire, England, who were as remarkable for their stupidity as for their conceit. 2. Scott, with his family, was set free in St. Louis in 1857; after which time he seems to have passed into obscurity. no further mention being made of him in any biographical sketches to which the Journal has access. His portrait, probably the only one in existence, is in possession of the Missouri Historical Society, and that body may have information as to his later

Which country used the center-board boats first in the races for the cup and the countries use the keel boat now? 3. Have any of the cup defenders, after successfully defending the cup, gone over to England and been badly beaten and had numerous mishaps? If so, was not the name of the boat the Genesta-James Gordon Bennett's boat-about ten years ago?-

The United States was the first and only country to use the center board in connection with the cup races. England always used the keel boat, its earlier challengers being "cutter" built, in which the body of the boat was carried down in a long taper to the keel. 2. Recent contestants, both challenger and defenders, have been socalled "fin-keel" models, a modification of the center board idea-in short, a deep and stationary center board on the bottom of an otherwise shallow-draft boat. 3. We do not recall such an incident. The Genesta was an English boat and was beaten by the Puritan. What its record was after returning to England we do not know.

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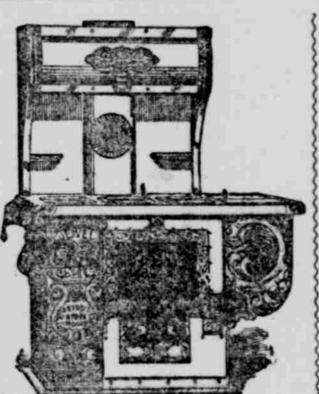
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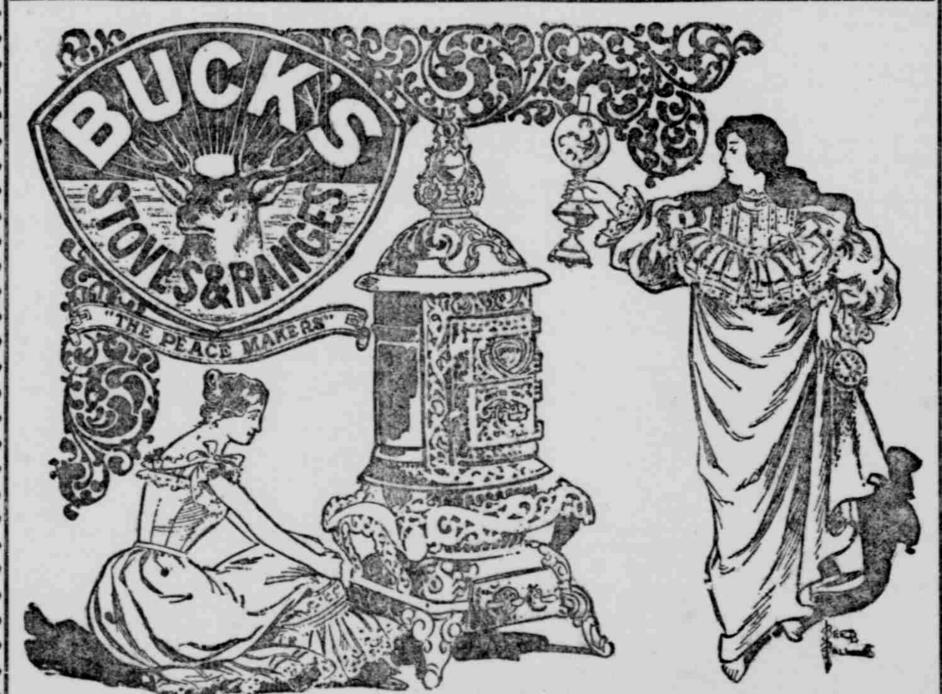
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